

THE SUMMER FLYER

August 27, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Families,

Often at the end of August, we get a touch of fall air to remind us that the new school year is upon us. This year, it looks as if our first week will feel like the heart of summer! But either way, it won't be long at all before the now-quiet halls of Floral Street are filled with the sounds of over seven hundred students beginning a new year. We sincerely hope you have had a rewarding and relaxing summer, and we could not be more excited about the year to come. Last minute preparations are ongoing as we seek to set the stage for powerful, joyful learning experiences here at Floral Street! We can't wait to see everyone next week!

Please see a number of important notes below. Most importantly, could you please assist us by sending your child with a note on the first day confirming his/her plans for dismissal. Thank you!

Todd Curtis & Lisa McCubrey

Important Notes:

Open House

Our annual open house will take place on Monday, August 30th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Students are welcome to come and view their classroom; teachers are generally not present at this time. This is an exciting day for all students – getting a “sneak peek” can be particularly helpful for any students that are a bit anxious about their return. We look forward to seeing you!

School Supplies

If you are last minute shopping for school supplies, the lists are on the front page of the Floral Street website. For those who ordered pre-made “kits” through the PTO, they have arrived and are already distributed to student classrooms. **Thank you to Patti Wolohan for coordinating and the Wolohan and Kane families for their work in getting these supplies organized and distributed!**

Curriculum Nights

The dates for our fall curriculum nights are listed below. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. Our Curriculum Nights begin **at 6:45 pm** so that administrators can provide a brief but broad curriculum overview for 15 to 20 minutes, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations that begin shortly after 7:00 pm.

Arriving at Floral Street - General

At the bottom of this notice you will find detailed information about student drop-off and pick-up at Floral Street School. Please see the district website for information on bus pass pick-up at: http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1281022631_664489.pdf

Arriving at Floral Street – The first day!

The first day of any new year can be a busy one for all our students – and adults! A few important things to keep in mind:

- Students may arrive at school no earlier than 8:30 am.
- Parents may walk their students into classrooms on the first day, but we do ask that students develop an independent routine and habit very early on, from the second day.
- The hallways of Floral Street are **filled** with teachers and staff on the first day to welcome and direct children where they need to go. Please assure your student that they cannot and will not get lost when they come to Floral Street School!
- Please make sure your student knows exactly how they are getting home – bus, parent pick-up, walker, etc.

Floral Street PTO

Our Floral Street PTO is already planning a number of fall community activities and academic enrichment programs, as well as fundraisers to support these valuable experiences. If you are interested in learning more about how you can support – and join! – the PTO's efforts, please feel free to contact PTO president Hannah Kane at hkane@townisp.com

Important Fall Dates:

August 30	Open House, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
August 31	First Day of School 2010-2011!
September 6	Labor Day – No School
September 16	Grade 1 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 20	Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 21	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 22	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
October 11	No School – Columbus Day
November 2	Parent Conferences (No School)
November 11	No School – Veterans' Day
November 24-26	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at:

http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf

DRIVING STUDENTS TO AND FROM FLORAL STREET SCHOOL

Managing the arrival and dismissal of nearly 750 young students can be a significant challenge! **These procedures have been reviewed with and developed in consultation with the Shrewsbury Police Department in order to have the safest possible routines.** Please review and follow the procedures below to help us manage this *safely*.

MORNING ARRIVAL

All students arriving at Floral Street should come in one of three ways:

1. On the bus
 2. As a walker
 3. By using the drop-off procedure described below
- **Parents may not park in the main lot and/or drop off students in the main lot or front driveway.**

From 8:30-9:00, auto traffic **may not enter** the main driveway from Floral Street. Cars must enter from the side driveway off of Whippoorwill Drive and then leave by the main driveway. Only those who need handicapped parking may enter, take a left at the first driveway, and park in the main lot.

Because there are many parents who have reasons for parking and entering school at arrival time (volunteering, meetings, helping students carry special projects, etc.), we created a special parking area for parents in the center of the blacktop area where parent drop-offs occur. **All parents will be required to use the blacktop parking area in the mornings, and must enter it via the side driveway along with the rest of the morning auto traffic.** Beginning at 8:30, a staff member will provide direction. Parents who park in the blacktop area will need to move their cars by 10:00 so that students can use the space for recess.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

Students leaving in the afternoon must also be dismissed in one of three ways:

1. On the bus
 2. As a walker – front door or rear path
 3. By using the pick-up procedure described below
- **Waiting for and picking up students in the main lobby is not permitted.** This creates a significant safety concern for us as far as knowing with confidence that all students are dismissed properly, especially because the office is very busy near dismissal time. It is also an issue of fairness towards all families – we cannot have some wait in the pickup line while others use a quicker method.
- **We also ask parents not to dismiss students as walkers and pick them up by car away from school grounds.** Again, the safety issue is paramount.
- Beginning at 3:00 pm, auto traffic **should not enter** the main driveway from Floral Street.

For **parent pick-up** in the afternoons, auto traffic must get in line starting at Whippoorwill Drive, turning left onto Bumblebee Circle, then left onto Honeysuckle Lane to the Floral Street Side entrance (see the accompanying map). **While waiting, please be respectful of neighborhood driveways and do not block them; please also try to refrain from turning around in neighborhood driveways.** After pick-up, cars may then leave by the main driveway.

While we understand that waiting in line can be frustrating for those of us in a hurry, it is unfair to allow a few to disregard this policy for convenience's sake, as one family's time is no more or less valuable than another's. Dismissing students through the office in order to avoid waiting in line violates our school community's value of "working together" and teaches children that following procedures is for others. We ask that you remain patient and take it slow in order to make arrival and dismissal as safe as possible for everyone.

We sincerely thank you for your cooperation in helping to ensure a **safe and smooth dismissal.**